

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 A notification module for a voice messaging system,
5 comprising:

an auto dialing calling module adapted to initiate a
communication with a user at a remote location;

10 a table associating particular events with a need for
notification of said user; and

15 a controller to activate said auto dialing calling module to
notify said user upon satisfaction of a particular event;

wherein said satisfaction of said particular event is
determined based on a comparison of entries in said table to call related
information contained in a log.

2. The notification module for a voice messaging system
according to claim 1, wherein:

20 said call related information is Caller ID information.

3. The notification module for a voice messaging system
according to claim 1, wherein:

25 said particular events include a occurrence of a
predetermined number of telephone calls from a particular caller.

4. The notification module for a voice messaging system
according to claim 3, wherein:

20 said predetermined number of telephone calls of said event
are within a predetermined range of time.

5. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 1, wherein:

 said particular events include a predetermined number of telephone calls from any party within a predetermined range of time.

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6. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a notification message to be communicated to said remote user.

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7. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 6, wherein:

 said notification message is an audible message.

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8. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 6, wherein:

 said notification message is a textual message.

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9. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a remote notification designation identifying a communication address of said remote user.

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10. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 9, wherein:

 said communication address is a telephone number of said remote user.

11. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 10, wherein:

 said communication is provided by establishment of a telephone call.

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12. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 10, wherein:

 said communication includes transmission of information over the Internet.

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13. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 10, wherein:

 said communication is an email message.

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14. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 10, wherein:

 said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

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15. The notification module for a voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:

 a call related information detector/receiver to detect and receive call relating information regarding incoming telephone calls.

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~~16. A method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls, comprising:~~

logging call related information as it is received by said voice messaging system;

reviewing said logged call related information for satisfaction of a predetermined event based on said logged call related information; and

10 notifying a remote user with a notification message in
response to satisfaction of said predetermined event.

17. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

said remote user is notified by the establishment of a telephone call from said voice message system.

20 18. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

25 said remote user is notified with an audible notification message.

19. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

5 said remote user is notified with a textual notification message.

20. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined 10 event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

 said textual notification message is an email message.

21. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging 15 system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

 said call related information is Caller ID information.

20 22. The method for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls according to claim 16, wherein:

25 said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

23. Apparatus for notifying a user of a voice messaging system or other designated party upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on logged call related information regarding incoming calls, comprising:

5 means for logging call related information as it is received by said voice messaging system;

means for reviewing said logged call related information for satisfaction of a predetermined event based on said logged call related information; and

10 means for notifying a remote user with a notification message in response to satisfaction of said predetermined event.

24. A telephone answering device comprising:

a controller;

a voice recorder/playback module; and

15 a calling module activated by receipt of predetermined call related information, said calling module being adapted to initiate a telephone call to a predetermined notification telephone number upon satisfaction of a predetermined event based on received call related information.

20 25. The telephone answering device according to claim 24, wherein:

25 said calling module is further adapted to provide a notification message to a party answering said predetermined notification telephone number.